Berkeley/Albany Mental Health Commission
Corrected Minutes

North Berkeley Senior Center
1901 Hearst Ave. Workshop B

Members of the Public Present: Shirley Dean, Jonah Markowitz, April Wick.

Staff Present: Jeff Johns, Jane Micallef, Tenli Yavneh

1. Call to Order by Chuck Black at 7:00 pm
Commissioners Present: Charles Black (Acting as Chair), Jeffrey Davis, Shelby Heda (arrived at 7:06 pm), Paul Kealoha-Blake, Carole Marasovic (arrived at 7:20 pm), Shirley Posey, Anna Mae Stanley.
Commissioners Absent: Jesse Arreguin, Kim Nemirow.

2. Public Comment
April Wick – is the new Executive Director of Easy Does It and has noticed that Easy Does It serves people with physical disabilities and seniors providing emergency transportation, and wheelchair repair. She believes that her organization and Berkeley Mental Health serve many of the same people and would like to dialogue about how to better those folks.

Commissioner Kealoha-Blake distributed Policy GD C-66 and the original press release pertaining to the in-custody death as well as a handout on Excited Delirium. He had difficulty obtaining the CIT policy because he was told it would interfere with the investigation into the in-custody death.

3. Preliminary Business

A. Approval of April 25, 2013 Agenda

M/S/C (Davis, Kealoha-Blake) Move to approve the April 25, 2013 Agenda as written.
Ayes: Black, Davis, Heda, Kealoha-Blake, Posey, Stanley; Noes: None; Abstentions: None; Absent: Arreguin, Marasovic (arrived after the vote), Nemirow.

B. Approval of the March 28, 2013 minutes

M/S/C (Kealoha-Blake, Stanley) To approve the March 28, 2013 minutes as written.
Ayes: Black, Davis, Heda, Kealoha-Blake, Posey, Stanley; Noes: None; Abstentions: None; Absent: Arreguin, Marasovic (arrived after the vote), Nemirow.

C. Staff Announcements
Carol Patterson, the Secretary is on vacation.
The Division is starting over in its search for a Mental Health Manager. The City is putting out a Request for Proposal for outside consulting firms to recruit candidates.

4. Recommendation for Appointment to Mental Health Commission

Mr. “Herve” Michel introduced himself as someone who originally had a background in finance. He has been helped by Berkeley Mental Health and wants to give back to the community. He currently volunteers at the South Berkeley Senior Center.


Ayes: Black, Davis, Heda, Kealoha-Blake, Posey, Stanley; Noes: None; Abstentions: None; Absent: Arreguin, Marasovic (arrived after the vote), Nemirow.

Mark Schwartz, the other candidate for the Commission was not present.

5. May Is Mental Health Month Planning

Commissioner Posey stated she believed she was excluded from the planning process because all the meetings were held on days she worked. She would like the Commission to be polled as to availability for planning meetings.

Commissioner Heda expressed interest in providing an opportunity for the public to express their concerns and be referred to agencies.

Commissioner Marasovic expressed interest in having a public forum where the public could provide feedback about mental health services in Berkeley.

6. Response to February 12, 2013 Berkeley Police Department in-custody death

Commissioner Kealoha-Blake indicated that the Police had not yet released the coroner’s report. He distributed Policy GD C-66 and the original press release pertaining to the in-custody death as well as a handout on Excited Delirium because it seems to be coming up more often, nationally, in situations of in-custody death. He would like the Commission to advocate for having mental health trained personnel at all mental health calls.

7. Discussion of Laura’s Law

Shirley Dean, representing Beat 2 Crime Report, is concerned that there is a very small minority of mental health consumers who are violent and wants the Commission to recommend to City Council to set up a task force to make a recommendation to address this concern.

8. Subcommittee Reports

A. Oversight – Chuck will pull the subcommittee together when the semester is over
B. By-Laws – no report
C. Safety – attempted to meet but the chair was ill. The Safety Subcommittee needs to get feedback from the full Commission.
D. Informed Consent – no report

9. Liaison Reports

A. Berkeley CIT Council – has not met since the in-custody death.
B. MHSA Advisory Committee – mainly they have been finalizing the MHSA Update.
C. Safety – no additional report.

10. Alameda County Mental Health Board Liaison Report – they are discussing Laura’s Law.

11. California Association of Local Mental Health Boards/Commissions (CALMB/C) – may be doing regional trainings again. Commissioner Marasovic relayed that Richard Van Horn, Chair of the Oversight and Accountability Commission, stated at the April CALMHB/C
meeting that local Mental Health Boards needed training in law, advocacy and assertiveness in order to go to our governing body. Carole distributed the April 2013 California Planning Council Agenda packet.

12. Prioritizing agenda items for next month:

Presentation by Jeff Shannon
Possible action on Laura’s Law’s discussion
Review of the May Is Mental Health Month event
Report from the Interim Mental Health Manager, Kelly Wallace
Having a Public Forum in conjunction with the Homeless Commission
Commission feedback on the draft Safety Plan
Including consumer focus groups in the Alameda County External Quality Review - Organization process
Planning another retreat and/or training
Update on Mental Health Director hiring

Public Comment:
Mark Schwartz presented himself as applying for a seat on the Mental Health Commission. He has experience in the San Francisco homeless community, is a public speaker and suggests that Commissioners speak to the Governor to advocate for access to mental health in jail. He is currently living in an RV that he plans to park next on Hearst Ave. Since the Commission filled the available seat earlier in the meeting, Mr. Schwartz is encouraged to attend meetings until such a time as a seat is available.

Adjournment at 9:00 pm.

Minutes submitted by: ____________________________________________
                      Carol Patterson, Commission Secretary